

BROAD RUN DISTRICT NEWS

Community Meetings

March 23, 6:30pm--Budget worksession, Gvmt Center, Leesburg

March 24, 6:00pm--Board of Supervisors special meeting (Redistricting, naming), Gvmt Center, Leesburg

March 28, 1pm--Job Seeker Workshop, Loudoun Workforce Resource Center at George Washington University, Ashburn campus

March 26, 10am--Free Tax Prep for families under \$49,000, Loudoun Workforce Resource Center, Shenandoah Bldg, Leesburg

April 4, 6pm--BOS Public Input and General Business Meeting, Gvmt Center, Leesburg

April 5, 9am--BOS Business Meeting, Gvmt Center, Leesburg (adoption of tax rate meeting)

March 2011

News from the Board

Redistricting



During the last meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted 5-4 (Burton, Kurtz, Buckley, McGimsey, and Burk in favor) to adopt the "Miller 5" plan, as amended. This redistricting plan redraws the election districts in a way that significantly divides communities and neighborhoods. The plan attempts to maintain 2 western districts, but both "rural" districts are hybrids; part of Brambleton is in Blue Ridge with western towns like Middleburg, and part of Lansdowne remains with Lovettsville. What is currently the Broad Run district was carved up into three districts. University Center will join a north of Rt. 7 district that stretches all the way east to the Loudoun/Fairfax border. A small area around Dulles Town Center (currently the Potomac District where an incumbent lives) was redrawn completely away from the existing Potomac District and into Ashburn Village and Broadlands. This plan makes little sense for the communities of interest in the central part of the county. I voted against this plan as it was gerrymandering to favor certain incumbents and candidates and even claimed as "our plan" by the Loudoun County Democrat Committee. Unfortunately, these district lines will remain in place for 10 years, and this process ended with candidates trumping communities.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a special meeting on Thursday, March 24 at 6pm to come back to name the new districts. This meeting also would present an opportunity for one of the Supervisors who voted for the Miller 5 plan to reconsider the vote on the district lines. If you favor reconsideration or have a suggested district name, please e-mail the board at bos@loudoun.gov.

Budget

The BOS continues to work through the FY12 Budget in preparation for a vote on the tax rate on April 5. We are currently hovering around \$1.30 tax rate in our work sessions. This rate, though the same as last year, would be a tax *increase* for many residents whose assessments have gone up in value. While the economy is gaining some ground, many residents and families are still dealing with fluctuating home values, lost jobs, and salary freezes. My position remains that a tax increase in this still recovering economy is a non-starter.

The good news out of the budget for the Ashburn community is that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) prioritizes the three Ashburn schools (ES-22, MS-6, and HS-8) needed to relieve overcrowding. Previously divided communities came together over the last several months to support the three school solution.

Transportation

Rt. 7 and Rt. 659 Interchange

Earlier this year, Governor McDonnell proposed to fund the Route 7/659 (Belmont Ridge Rd) interchange along with the Sycolin Rd flyover at Route 15 using 100% state funding, which is good news for the County. The Virginia General Assembly approved the Governor's proposal on March 6, but at a reduced amount. Final allocations are still being worked out, but I am confident that the project will remain a priority within the Governor's office and VDOT.

Smith Switch Road

You may have noticed the closure of Smith Switch Road recently. Currently, the developer in that area is paving the portion from the W & OD Trail south to Chilum Place. Due to some mismarked utilities and weather delays, the project is projected to be completed by the end of May. A portion of the road north of the trail will remain unpaved, as there is currently no funding or developer proffer to pave it.

More News

OpenBand

On March 9, the Cable and Open Video Systems Commission (OVS) voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors, approval of the revised OpenBand franchise agreement. The OVS Commission has been studying this issue for over six months. This is a complex issue that affects many Broad Run District residents. The Board of Supervisors has no authority over the length of the OpenBand contract with HOAs, though we do approve or deny franchise agreements. The cable lines are buried in easements which are privately owned by OpenBand. A court has ruled that those easements are private property and other cable providers are not guaranteed access.

I do recognize the frustration of many residents and their service complaints. I am currently reviewing staff reports and recommendations, as well as taking public input from residents in preparation for a BOS vote on this issue later this spring. Please do email me your thoughts at lori.waters@loudoun.gov.

Reverse 911 for Cell Phones

You can now add your cell phone to the Reverse 911 system in Loudoun. Since 2005, the County has utilized the Reverse 911® system which has the capability to send a recorded message to homes and businesses on local phone landlines, providing pertinent safety information or instructions. To add your cell phone log on to www.loudoun.gov/reverse911.

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